

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1541 – HB 1429

February 27, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires eligible individuals applying for or renewing a driver license or photo identification to be automatically registered to vote, unless the person declines registration by checking a box indicating their refusal. For purposes of carrying out administrative duties to implement this legislation, the effective date is upon becoming law; for all other purposes, the effective date is January 1, 2022.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$275,000/FY21-22

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, DOS includes a voter registration application as part of any motor vehicle driver or photo identification license application, and such applications offer individuals the option to decline to register to vote.
- The proposed language would automatically register any person applying for a motor vehicle driver or photo identification license to vote, unless they indicate otherwise utilizing a box on the application stating, "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THIS BOX, AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO VOTE USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION."
- Currently, there is no additional room to add the required statement to the printed driver license application form.
- Per the language of this legislation, DOS is not required to comply until updates or the creation of new electronic or paper applications, forms, or other documents are available. Further, DOS is authorized to exhaust existing supplies of applications, forms, and documents before complying.
- Therefore, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures related to printing physical driver license application forms to comply with this legislation.
- According to information previously provided by DOS, and confirmed by the third-party contract vendor responsible for the driver license system, the cost to perform a system modification to integrate voter registration of driver license duplicates and renewals and changes of addresses at kiosks and electronic tablets is estimated to result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$275,000 in FY21-22.

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, DOS is required to provide voter registration applications to county election commissions. Under the provisions of this legislation, DOS is authorized to continue providing these electronically; as a result, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures for providing such notifications to county election commissions.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

/jg